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ALL THOSE WHO ARE INTERESTED
ARE HEREBY RESPECTFULLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE CEREMONIES OF THE DEDICATION OF

BUTTS HILL FORT

ERECTED BY THE BRITISH DURING THE REVOLUTION
AND REMAINING TODAY PRACTICALLY UNCHANGED

It is situated on a commanding hill some ten miles
from the City of Newport.

¶ This fort was the center of the American Forces in the Battle of Rhode Island, an action which reflected great honour upon American troops.

¶ The one hundred and forty-fifth anniversary of this battle occurs on August 29th, during the afternoon of which day, from two until five, exercises will be held in the fort. Those present will be able to witness the events of the battle reënacted by the forces of the Army and Navy under Colonel William R. Doores, of Fort Adams, with the coöperation of Captain Franck Taylor Evans, of the Naval Training Station, together with the Newport Artillery and the Bristol Train of Artillery.

Literary exercises will follow at which a short history of the battle will be given and addresses made by distinguished visitors.

¶ Butts Hill Fort and Fort Barton in Tiverton have lately been presented to the Newport Historical Society.

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HONORARY COMMITTEE OF INVITATION

His Excellency, WILLIAM S. FLYNN, Gov. of Rhode Island.
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Major General ANDRE W. BREWSTER, U. S. A.,
Commanding 1st Corps Area.
Colonel WILLIAM R. DOORES, Commandant Fort Adams.
Rear Admiral CHARLES S. WILLIAMS,
President U. S. Naval War College.
Captain FRANCK TAYLOR EVANS,
Commandant Naval Training Station.
Major General JAMES PARKER (Retired).
Rear Admiral WILLIAM S. SIMS (Retired).
Brigadier General CHARLES W. ABBOTT, R. I. Militia.
Colonel WILLIAM KNOWE, Newport Artillery.
Brigadier General HERBERT W. BLISS.
General GEORGE M. COLE, Commander Militia of Conn.
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THE STORY OF BUTTS HILL FORT

¶ Upon a conspicuous hill near the northern end of the Island of Rhode Island, rising gradually above the surrounding country stand these fortifications, consisting of earthworks, enclosing an oblong area some 700 feet long by 200 to 300 feet wide. They were built by the British, who then occupied the Island, in the early part of 1777, as a defence against the approach of the American Army, either by Bristol Ferry or by Howland's Ferry from Tiverton.

¶ When General Sullivan gathered his army to attack the British on Rhode Island in the summer of 1778, he describes this as, "A very strong work on Butts Hill." It was then occupied by three British regiments.

¶ On the evening of the 8th of August, 1778, the British evacuated the fort, retiring to their stronger defences at Newport.

¶ On the 9th, General Sullivan with his forces, crossing from the mainland took possession of the fort.

¶ For three weeks it was held by the Americans, being occupied during the siege of Newport by the reserves, and those from among the sick who were capable of doing garrison duty.

¶ The morning of the 29th, the Americans retired from the lower part of the Island, and took up their position in front of and about this fort, which during that memorable day, by its heavy guns, played an important part in the Battle of Rhode Island and from these ramparts General Sullivan directed the movements of the American Army. All day of the 30th its great guns bombarded the enemy's works.

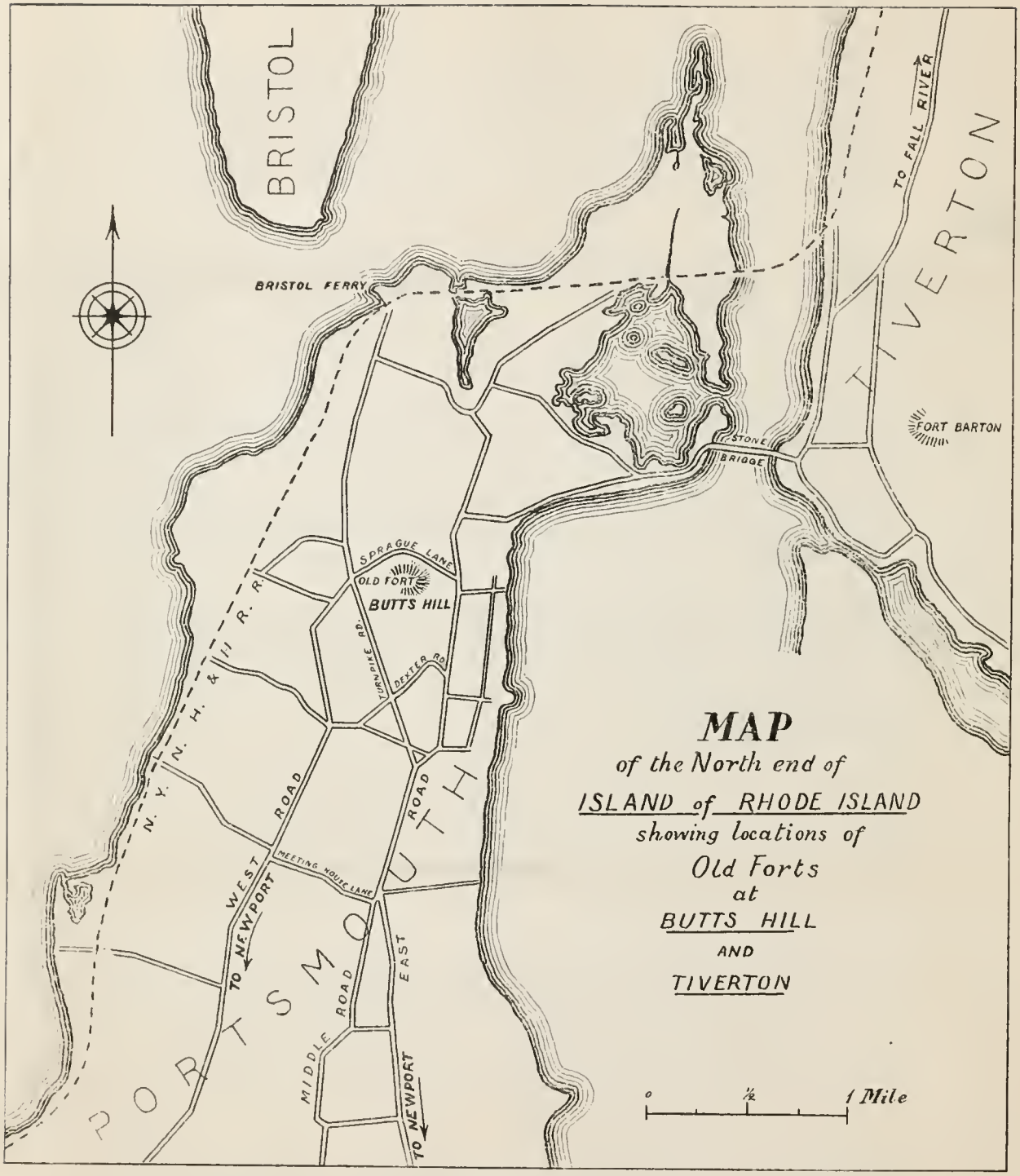
¶ On the night of the 30th-31st, the American Army crossed to the mainland, and the next day the British again took possession and held the fort until October, 1779, when they withdrew their forces from Rhode Island.

¶ During the presence of the French Army upon the Island, in 1780 and 1781, it was garrisoned by them.

¶ Peace has reigned over these earthworks from that day to this. They have not been disturbed by the hand of man, and remain today as they were in the time of the Revolution, though overgrown by grass and shrubbery.

¶ During the Civil War the Fort was used as a camp of instruction for a short time by some of the Militia of Rhode Island.

¶ Few Revolutionary forts in such good condition and with such an interesting history, are so worthy of being preserved, as this central base of the Continental Army in the Battle of Rhode Island.


BRISTOL
BRISTOL FERRY
TO FALL RIVER
TIVERTON
FORT BARTON
STONE BRIDGE
SPRAGUE LANE
OLD FORT
BUTTS HILL
TURNPIKE RD.
DEXTER RD.
N. Y. N. H. & H. R. R.
WEST ROAD
MEETING HOUSE LANE
TO NEWPORT
SOUTH ROAD
EAST
MIDDLE ROAD
TO NEWPORT
PORTSMOUTH
MAP
of the North end of
ISLAND of RHODE ISLAND
showing locations of
Old Forts
at
BUTTS HILL
AND
TIVERTON
0
½
1 Mile

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